



## QUESTIONS RELATING TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHICH COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES ARE IMPORTANT THIS MONTH?
2. WHERE WERE THE WETTEST AND DRYEST AREAS DURING MARCH?
3. WHAT WAS THE AVERAGE MILK PRODUCED PER COW IN MARCH?
4. IS THE NATIONAL FARM EMPLOYMENT GREATER THAN A YEAR AGO?
5. WHERE IS THE MAIN BROILER PRODUCING AREA IN THIS STATE?
6. HOW DO FARM GRAIN STOCKS COMPARE WITH A YEAR AGO?
7. WHAT IS THE WHEAT CROP ESTIMATE FOR NORTH CAROLINA?
8. WHAT WAS GROSS INCOME FROM CHICKENS AND EGGS LAST YEAR?
9. WERE PRICES PAID FOR MOST FEEDS UP OR DOWN IN MARCH?
10. HOW DID PRICES FARMERS RECEIVED COMPARE WITH PREVIOUS REPORTS?

LIBRARY  
CURRENT  
APR 29 1948  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## APRIL 1, 1948 GENERAL FARM REPORT

## MILK PRODUCTION PER COW UP

Milk produced on farms in North Carolina during March 1948 totaled 118 million pounds. This is 12 million pounds more than was produced a month ago. This increase was primarily due to the seasonal upturn in the rate of milk produced per cow. Production of milk per cow averaged 330 pounds during March compared with 286 pounds during February. Total average number of cows in herds on North Carolina farms was the same as a month ago, or 358,000 head.

Weather conditions during March favored development of spring pasture grasses, although wet soils limited grazing in some sections.

## FARM EMPLOYMENT UNCHANGED

About as many persons (hired and family) were at work on all farms in the United States on March 1 this year as on the same date a year ago. The persons engaged at farm employment, which totaled 8,541,000 on March 1, was 5 percent greater than a month earlier. This increase from last month was slightly larger than usual.

The number of family workers and operators working on farms March 1 was about the same or slightly less than a year ago in all regions except the South Atlantic states. Here there was a slight increase in family employment. There were more hired workers on farms on March 1 than a month ago in all regions except in the Pacific states. Weather factors were responsible for most of the changes in hired farm employment from last year and last month.

## FRUIT

North Carolina's first peach crop forecasts will be made early in May. This report will include an estimate of the entire state crop. Early in April the prospective peach crop looked to be fairly good excepting in spots where the late March freeze caused damage.

The commercial orchards in the Sand Hills area show variable conditions. Along the Seaboard Railroad area damages are heaviest, with some orchards almost a complete loss. In the Candor area prospects are good. However it requires several days after damages occur before reasonable evaluations may be made.

Apples early in April showed promise of fairly good prospects, but it is too early to estimate the crop in western counties.

PLACEMENTS OF BROILER CHICKS  
IN CHATHAM AREA LOWER

Placements of commercial broiler chicks in the Chatham area during the week ending April 3 totaled 227,000 head - 24,000 below the 251,000 placed during the previous week. Hatcheries placing chicks with producers in this area reported 549,000 eggs set and 396,000 chicks hatched during the week ending April 3. These hatcheries paid an average of 78.1 cents per dozen for hatching eggs and received an average price of \$14.80 per hundred for straight run chicks during the week.

## GENERAL SITUATION

Weather during the past month has been more favorable for farm work than any previous four weeks' period since mid-September 1947. Even so preparation of land in central and western counties has been delayed by wet soil conditions. In the east, farmers have fairly well caught up with their field work.

Small grains are doing nicely and stands are better than average. No serious weather damage exists. Fruits are variable but in general they are in fair condition. Spotted areas suffered from the freeze in late March. Truck crops came through this freeze period fairly well, although in some local areas damage was severe.

Tobacco plant beds are in good shape, with rapid growth shown since mid-March. Transplanting to fields will begin in the type 13 or border belt counties during the latter part of April. Very little corn has been planted, even in this sandy-early area. It is still early for planting cotton, soybeans, and other crops requiring warm soils.

Farm labor is short in quality and quantity. This problem is increased with the prospects of overall continued increased costs of production and lower gross returns than last year. More supplies and equipment are becoming available this year at high costs. Fuel oil will be short for curing tobacco, as well as for all other purposes.

Interest in better seeds is evidenced by the fact that samples tested by the Seed Laboratory are running far ahead of past years. The Soils Laboratory is also over-run with samples to be analyzed for fertilizer and lime requirements.

The cropland vacated by the required reduction in tobacco is likely to be planted to summer hay crops, corn and used otherwise according to the requirements of a particular farm as the available labor will permit.

The unsettled European and the activities under the European Recovery Program may result in an increased international demand for farm products and thereby stabilize or increase the price of farm products.

## REAL FARM FRIENDS





## EGG PRODUCTION SEASONALLY HIGHER

Production of eggs during March on North Carolina farms totaled 114 million, an increase of 41 million eggs over production the previous month. However, this was about 9 million fewer eggs than were produced during March 1947. The decrease from the previous year is due entirely to a decline in the average number of layers on hand during the month. About 7,323,000 layers were on farms during March this year, compared with 8,330,000 on farms during March 1947. Rate of lay was about 59 percent higher than last month and 5 percent higher than during the same period a year earlier.

Weather conditions during the month were generally favorable for egg production. North Carolina farmers have been culling their layers much closer than usual which has been largely responsible for the sharp reduction in layers on farms and the unusual high rate of lay.

## BABY CHICK PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY

Production of baby chicks by North Carolina hatcheries during February 1948 was sharply lower than the output during the same month a year ago. February 1948 production totaled 3,350,000 chicks - 23 percent below the 4,348,000 hatched during February 1947. This is the smallest February hatch since 1942. The total hatch for the first two months of this year amounted to 5,376,000 chicks or 17 percent less than the 6,459,000 chicks hatched during the same period last year.

Prices received by North Carolina hatcheries for baby chicks on March 1 showed only slight changes from those being received a month earlier.

## PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME FROM TURKEYS

North Carolina farmers produced 376,000 turkeys during 1947 - 40,000 less than they produced in 1946. During 1947, 368,000 head of turkeys were sold and 14,000 head were consumed on farms where produced. This reflects a decrease of 6,000 head in inventory numbers during the year. Sales during 1947 were 27,000 head below marketings in 1946.

The average price received for turkeys sold in 1947 was 39.1 cents per pound, compared with 41.0 cents received in 1946. Cash receipts from sales in 1947 amounted to \$2,389,000, compared with \$2,688,000 the previous year. The value of turkeys consumed in farm households declined from \$109,000 in 1946 to \$91,000 in 1947. As a consequence total gross income was down about 11 percent - amounting to \$2,480,000 compared with \$2,797,000 in 1946.

The average weight of all birds marketed was 16.6 pounds the same as the previous year. There was a slight increase in the average weight of toms, but this was offset by the slight drop in the average weight of hens. Toms sold in 1947 averaged 20.0 pounds per bird and hens averaged 13.2 pounds.

On January 1 1948 there were 50,000 turkeys on North Carolina farms of which 32,000 were breeder hens. This was a drop of 6,000 in total number from January 1, 1947, all of which occurred in numbers of breeder hens. Breeder hens on farms January 1, 1947 totaled 38,000 head.

*United States egg consumption in January-March was about the same as in the first quarter of last year even though prices averaged 45 cents a dozen or about 15 percent higher. Consumption is likely to continue near 1947 levels. Output may be down as much as 5 percent. As a result, fewer eggs will be bought for prices support and export.*

## SMALL GRAIN CONDITION GOOD

Prospective production of wheat in North Carolina for 1948 was estimated at 6,230,000 bushels as of April 1. This is 26 percent smaller than the 8,449,000 bushels produced in 1947 and 5 percent smaller than the 10-year average of 6,567,000 bushels.

All small grains were reported in good to excellent condition as of April 1, despite irregular growth in evidence in most areas as a result of delayed plantings last fall. The spring oat crop has failed to make the usual rapid early spring growth, but soil moisture conditions are favorable in all areas. All small grain crops should continue to make good growth if favorable weather conditions continue throughout the growing season.

## PASTURE

Winter ended early in March, although the late March freeze killed much early plant growth. Warm days started grasses and weed growth early. Pastures are affording grazing opportunities somewhat better than usual for this date.

Attention toward good pasture management continues on the increase.

## PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME FOR CHICKENS AND EGGS, 1946-47

Gross farm income to North Carolina farmers from chickens and eggs (including commercial broilers) totaled \$73,938,000 during 1947. This was 8 percent greater than the gross income of \$69,306,000 received during 1946. Of the total 1947 gross income 52 percent was from eggs, 28 percent from chickens and 20 percent from commercial broilers.

Chicken production on farms amounted to 17,920,000 birds in 1947 or 6 percent less than in 1946. In addition 16,182,000 broilers were produced or 10 percent more than in 1946. This makes a total of 34,102,000 birds produced in the state during 1947.

North Carolina farmers received slightly lower prices for chickens sold from farms during 1947. The average price per pound liveweight in 1947 was 28.5 cents compared with 28.8 in 1946. Egg prices were higher, however, with farmers receiving an average of 48.0 cents per dozen compared with 41.6 in 1946. Broiler prices were up slightly averaging 32.9 cents per pound in 1947 compared with 32.3 cents the year before.

Chickens sold in 1947 (excluding broilers) totaled 41,033,000 pounds liveweight or 4 percent less than the 42,894,000 pounds marketed in 1946. Of this total 17,644,000 pounds were young chickens and 23,389,000 pounds were mature birds. The average liveweight of all chickens sold during 1947 was 4.1 pounds, the same as in 1946. Young chickens sold averaged 3.1 pounds, compared with 3.0 the previous year and mature chickens sold averaged 5.5 pounds the same as in 1946.

Total egg production during 1947 amounted to 981 million of which 648 million were sold, 324 million consumed in the farm household and 9 million used for farm hatching. This compares with 980 million produced in 1946 of which 628 million were sold, 341 million consumed and 11 million used for farm hatching. Gross farm income from eggs in 1947 totaled \$33,592,000 an increase of 16 percent over 1946.

The inventory of all chickens on farms January 1, 1948 was 13 percent below the inventory on January 1, 1947. All chickens (excluding commercial broilers) on farms January 1, 1948 totaled 10,532,000, compared with 12,111,000 on hand a year earlier. Of the chickens on farms January 1 this year 3,710,000 were hens, 5,288,000 were pullets and 1,534,000 other chickens. The value of all chickens on farms January 1, 1948 totaled \$14,745,000, compared with January 1, 1947 inventory value of \$16,834,000.

Commercial broiler production during 1947 amounted to 45,319,000 pounds compared with 42,662,000 pounds in 1946. Gross income from broilers totaled \$14,907,000 an increase of 8 percent over the 1946 income of \$13,780,000.



## PRICES RECEIVED

Mid-month prices received by North Carolina farmers in March held rather steady compared with a month earlier. With the exception of eggs, no sharp price variations were noticeable. Prices of corn, wheat and rye declined slightly, while cotton, cottonseed, oats, soybeans and cowpeas made light price gains. Hogs, sheep and lambs reflected moderately lower prices during mid-March but prices for beef cattle and veal calves were slightly higher. At 40 cents per dozen, eggs made a sharp drop of 14 cents from mid-February to mid-March. Wholesale milk was off 10 cents per hundred weight, but the price of retail milk remained unchanged. Butter at 59 cents per pound dropped 2 cents during the month. Potatoes and sweet potatoes were up 15 and 5 cents per bushel, respectively. With the exception of a 30-cent rise in the price received for Korean, all varieties of lespedeza seed held firm during the month.

## FEED PRICES DOWN

With the exception of corn meal and 18 percent protein mixed dairy feed, North Carolina farmers paid lower prices for all high protein and grain by-products feeds on March 15 than a month earlier. Corn meal at \$6.00 and 18 percent protein mixed dairy feed at \$4.90 showed no change in price during the month.

Dropping from \$7.60 in mid-February to \$7.30 in mid-March, tannage reflected the greatest decline in price. Bran and middlings each dropped 15 cents per hundred weight, while cottonseed meal, and 16 and 20 percent protein mixed dairy feed dropped 5 cents each. Laying mash and scratch feed declined 20 cents and 10 cents per hundred pounds, respectively.

## MARCH PRICE INDEX

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers in mid-March remained at the February level of 260 percent of the 1909-14 average. This index is the same as that of a year ago. Among individual indexes, grain, meat animals, poultry, and dairy products declined from the level of a month earlier while cotton and cottonseed and miscellaneous products reflected small increases. The mid-month average price of eggs which dropped from 54 cents in February to 40 cents in March was primarily the cause of the sharp decline in the poultry index. The March poultry index at 220 percent is 47 points below February of this year and 6 points below March 1947. Higher prices received for both cotton and cottonseed during March brought about the slight rise in the cotton index.

The March ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by United States farmers remained at the previous month's level of 105 percent. This ratio compares with 115 for March 1947.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS MARCH 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT	N. CAROLINA		U. S.	
	MAR. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1948	MAR. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1948
	DOLLARS			
BRAN.....	4.35	4.50	3.90	4.01
MIDDINGS.....	4.60	4.75	4.02	4.21
CORN MEAL.....	6.00	6.00	5.09	5.06
COTTONSEED MEAL.....	4.65	4.70	5.13	5.26
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16% PROTEIN.....	4.55	4.60	4.51	4.63
18% PROTEIN.....	4.90	4.90	4.77	4.87
20% PROTEIN.....	4.95	5.00	4.88	5.03
LAYING MASH.....	5.80	6.00	5.46	5.55
SCRATCH FEED.....	5.60	5.70	5.30	5.34
TANKAGE.....	7.30	7.60	6.83	7.51

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS (N.C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	MAR. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1948	MAR. 15 1947	MAR. 15 1946	MAR. 15 1945
	N. C. INDEX NUMBERS				
ALL FARM PRODUCTS.....	260	260	260	200	180
COTTON & COTTONSEED..	267	263	275	191	167
GRAINS.....	223	226	213	167	160
MEAT ANIMALS.....	345	347	338	228	215
POULTRY.....	220	267	226	175	179
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	237	239	223	177	173
MISCELLANEOUS.....	252	247	237	243	218
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID *	105	105	115	111	104
U. S. INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED.....	283	279	280	209	198
PRICES PAID.....					
INTEREST, TAXES....	247	248	226	180	173
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID...	115	112	124	116	114

\* Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. paid

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES\*

COMMODITY AND UNIT	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		ACTUAL PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	MAR. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1948	MAR. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1948	MAR. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1948
	DOLLARS		DOLLARS		PERCENT	
COTTON, PER LB.....	.318	.307	.306	.308	104	100
WHEAT, PER BU.....	2.21	2.12	2.18	2.19	101	97
CORN, PER BU.....	2.11	1.92	1.59	1.59	133	121
OATS, PER BU.....	1.17	1.04	.986	.99	119	105
BARLEY, PER BU.....	1.87	1.72	1.53	1.54	122	112
RYE, PER BU.....	2.14	1.94	1.78	1.79	-	-
BEEF CATTLE, PER CWT..	20.70	19.50	13.40	13.40	154	146
HOGS, PER CWT.....	21.80	21.60	18.00	18.00	121	120
LAMBS, PER CWT.....	20.00	20.70	14.50	14.60	138	142
CHICKENS, PER LB.....	.272	.26	.282	.283	96	92
EGGS, PER DOZ.....	.426	.45	.462	.490	92	92
MILK, PER CWT.....	4.88	5.00	3.89	4.08	125	123

\* Parity means a price for the farmers product which will give it an exchange value for things the farmer needs to buy equal to that in a specified base period (usually 1909-14).

## UNITED STATES' PRICES

Following the sharp drops of a month before, prices received by the Nation's farmers recovered slightly and averaged about 1.4 percent higher as of mid-March than in mid-February. At the same time, the index of prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, declined by 0.4 percent.

The changes of the month raised the index of prices received by farmers from 279 to 283. This is 8 percent below the high of January 1948, one percent above March of 1947, and 39 percent above the level of 204 at the War's end in mid-August 1945.

Commodity price movements were far from uniform. Feed grains were up 10 percent; food grains, cotton, and oil-bearing crops, fruits, and meat animals made smaller increases but averaged higher than a month ago. Truck crops dropped rather sharply. Tobacco prices declined only slightly. Poultry and dairy products declined seasonably.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS MARCH 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	N. CAROLINA		U. S.
		MAR. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1948	MAR. 15 1948
		DOLLARS		
CORN.....	BU.	1.91	1.95	2.11
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.54	2.55	2.21
OATS.....	BU.	1.27	1.20	1.17
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.75	1.75	1.87
RYE.....	BU.	2.51	2.55	2.14
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	3.00	2.90	3.23
COWPEAS.....	BU.	5.25	4.95	4.58
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.11	.11	.101
COTTON.....	LB.	.326	.322	.318
COTTONSEED.....	TON	80.00	78.00	87.90
WOOL.....	LB.	.47	.47	.408
HOGS.....	CWT	20.60	21.60	21.80
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT	16.90	16.50	20.70
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT	21.80	21.30	23.40
SHEEP.....	CWT	9.40	9.80	9.40
LAMBS.....	CWT	18.50	19.50	20.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.29	.28	.272
EGGS.....	DOZ	.40	.54	.426
MILK (WHOLESALE).....	CWT	5.65	5.75	4.88
RETAIL.....	QT.	.196	.196	.185
BUTTER.....	LB	.59	.61	.672
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.62	.62	.803
HAY, ALL LOOSE.....	TON	32.30	32.00	19.70
HAY, ALL BALED.....	TON	35.00	34.20	-
POTATOES.....	BU.	2.15	2.00	1.96
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.35	2.30	2.37
APPLES, COMM.....	BU.	2.50	2.50	1.95
LESPEDeza SEED.....	CWT	16.10	15.90	14.10
KOREAN.....	CWT	13.20	12.90	-
KOB.....	CWT	18.40	18.40	-
COM. & TENN. 76	CWT	24.00	24.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT	24.50	24.50	-



## FARM REPORT

Official Business

Issued monthly through the  
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh  
Frank Parker  
Agricultural Statistician in Charge

FORM BAE 4-48--7,000  
PERMIT No. 1001

Representing the  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
W. F. Callander, Assistant Chief

and the  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Division of Statistics  
D. S. Coltrane, Commissioner of Agriculture

Primarily for Distribution To  
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS  
INFORMATION DIRECT FROM FARMERS

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE LIBRARY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

APRIL 15, 1948

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

### COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES

As of April 1, 1948, growers of commercial early Irish potatoes in North Carolina indicate that plantings this year will be about 29,600 acres as compared with 29,000 acres last year. This is about 2 percent larger than the 1947 acreage but 17 percent less than the 10-year (1937-46) average of 35,650 acres. Planting of the crop is complete, and the earlier planted acreage is coming up to fairly good-stands. Growers' judgments point to a condition of about 88 percent of normal for the North Carolina crop of commercial Irish potatoes. The average yield for the 1947 crop was 170 bushels per acre compared with the 10-year average of 144 bushels.

The early Irish potato acreage in California is estimated at 79,000 acres this year compared with 62,000 acres in 1947. This is an increase of 27 percent.

The total acreage for the late-spring group is estimated at 165,900 or 6 percent larger than the 157,200 acres planted in 1947.

The total acreage of commercial Irish potatoes in the United States is estimated at 318,700 acres in comparison with 306,700 acres in 1947.

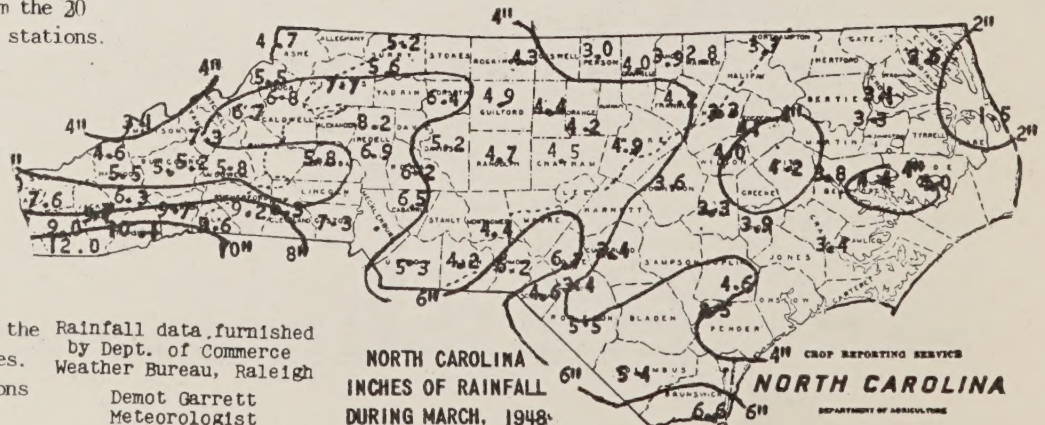
Prices received by U. S. farmers averaged a little higher in March than after the February break in some products. For the year, they probably will average below 1947 but above 1946. Farmers' cash receipts are likely to be down but probably less than 10 percent. Net income may be off somewhat more because farmers' costs will be higher.

### WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MARCH, 1948

Temperatures during March averaged 2 to 5 degrees above normal. An unusually warm spell came from the 20 to 23d, even reaching 90 degrees at many eastern stations. Weather during early and late March ranged from cool to cold, with temperatures reaching 11 degrees in Avery County on the 13th to 29th. Rainfall was above normal in the southwest. Frequent rains were general. Considerable snow fell in several mountain areas on the 6th. The greatest damage came on the 29th and 30th when the sub-freezing weather which prevailed in all parts of the state killed fruits, vegetables and tender leaves. Losses varied greatly, with well drained elevations best favored.

Rainfall data furnished  
by Dept. of Commerce  
Weather Bureau, Raleigh  
Demot Garrett  
Meteorologist

Cash wheat prices on March 29 were about 15 cents above the low reached in the February break. After being out of markets for some time, CCC bought both wheat and flour in March.



### CABBAGE

Late spring cabbage acreage for harvest in North Carolina this year is estimated at 2,000 acres. This is about 17 percent greater than the acreage harvested last year. The total acreage for harvest in the late spring group of states, which included North Carolina, is estimated at 10,750 acres or the same as harvested a year ago.

North Carolina's cabbage crop has been retarded somewhat by wet soils and cold weather in the important producing areas of Pamlico and Carteret counties. In the Elizabeth City-Weeksville section and in Currituck County the crop is in good condition.

### STRAWBERRIES

North Carolina's strawberry crop will be harvested from about 2,300 acres or 100 acres less than was harvested last year. Total acreage for all the mid-spring group of states is estimated at 46,960 acres, slightly larger than the 45,900 acres in 1947.

A yield of 85 crates per acre is currently estimated for the North Carolina crop. This would mean a prospective production of about 196,000 crates this year as compared with 144,000 crates in 1947 and the 10-year average of 409,000 crates.

Total production for all the mid-spring group of states is expected to be about 5 percent smaller than in 1947.